

Kennedy Wants Report on Viet Nam

U.S. Recalls Lodge

Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge is being recalled to Washington to give the Kennedy Administration a first-hand report on political and military conditions in strife-torn South Viet Nam.

One subject the Administration will discuss with Mr. Lodge is how much harder the United States can and should crack down in the future on the government of President Ngo Dinh Diem to obtain reform.

The State Department, in making the announcement yesterday, insisted that the move did not indicate an "emergency." Officials said Mr. Lodge is supposed to return periodically to meet with policy-makers here. He will return for several days of consultation at the end of this month or early in November.

But the announcement came at a time when American efforts to bring about reforms in the Diem government have met with no noticeable success.

President Kennedy publicly expressed fears that Vietnamese repressions against the Buddhists would jeopardize the long, difficult war against the communist-backed Viet Cong guerrillas. A total of 16,500 American troops are involved in the struggle.

Since then the U. S. has increased pressure to bring about political reforms, military improvements and some sort of truce between the Diem government and the Buddhists.

The U. S. withheld \$10 million or more in import aid to Vietnamese businessmen. Mr. Diem has been told that U. S. aid to his "special forces" will be cut off unless they are removed from palace command, placed under the army general staff and sent into the field to fight communists.

Some of these units took part in the pagoda raids and have since been on security duty in Saigon.

The U. S. also has done nothing about negotiations, due at this time of the year, for a 1964 agreement for aid to help Vietnamese businessmen import U. S. surplus agricultural products.

Meanwhile, John H. Richardson, former chief of CIA operations in Viet Nam yesterday met secretly with a congressional group just back from southeast Asia. Sources said Mr. Richardson and CIA director John A. McCone discussed with the lawmakers observations they made during their trip. The Hill group was a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee headed by Rep. Clement J. Zablocki (D., Wis.) (UPI)

CPYRIGHT